

**MINUTES OF**  
**BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**October 31, 2016**

The Board of Harvey County Commissioners met in regular session on October 31, 2016 with all three commissioners present. Chairman Westfall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:**

1. Commissioner Hague commented that yesterday was a “dark day” in Harvey County with a triple homicide committed in rural Harvey County on Sunday October 30.
2. Commissioner Westfall asked about the status of research being done by Administration and Counsel regarding sharing costs of detention for a juvenile that has been charged with crimes in Harvey and Marion Counties. John Waltner, Administrator, replied that they are still working on it.
3. Commissioner Westfall commented on an AP story he read about a possible KPERS investment rate change prior to the end of the year which may affect county expenses.

**CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. The Prairie View Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on November 3.
2. The annual 4H banquet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on November 12.
3. The Parks Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on November 21 in the courthouse community room.
4. A REAP legislative reception is scheduled for November 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Botanica in Wichita.
5. The annual county employee Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 5.

Minutes of the October 24 Commission regular meeting were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

1. A recommendation for appointment to the Harvey County RSVP Advisory Council for Sharon Erwin was presented for consideration. The Commission will defer the appointment until next week’s Commission meeting.
2. John Waltner reported that he has prepared letters of support from the county for two grant requests. One supports the application by the City of Newton for a Heritage Trust Fund grant for restoration projects at the historic Bernhard Warkentin house. The other letter supports the application by Prairie View for a KDOT transportation grant to assist individuals with disabilities with accessing transportation for physical and mental health treatment in the tri-county area.
3. John presented a notice that a public hearing will be held by the City of Newton at 7:00 p.m. on December 6 at Newton City Hall to consider the establishment of a Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) for the Prairie Fire Development to be located just west of Wal-Mart.
4. John asked the commission to consider renewing the county membership in the National Association of Counties (NACo) at a cost of \$694 per year. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to renew and continue the county membership in the NACo for

2017. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
5. John distributed copies of a flyer prepared by the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas that advocates for expanding KanCare and outlines the specific benefits to Harvey County.
  6. John presented copies of the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) 2017 Legislative Policy Statement to be presented for adoption at the upcoming KAC meeting.
  7. John also reported that the legislative policy and agenda of the Council of Governments will be discussed at their November 9 meeting.
  8. The proposed Contract for Legal Services with the Harvey County Legal Services Panel for 2017. John stated the agreement is basically the same as the 2016 agreement with the four lawyer panel with the exception of a change of one of the lawyers on the panel. The total cost remains at \$145,000 for 2017. The commission tabled approving the agreement and requested more information on the increased costs of additional legal fees for cases not handled by the panel.
  9. Byron Warta, EDC Representative, distributed copies of the EDC project report. He reported that three companies in Harvey County are planning expansions, one prospect is planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit and two new prospects have been added.
  10. Lynnette Redington, Health Department Director, reported that over 1,000 flu shots have been administered at their clinics so far.
  11. Anthony Swartzendruber, Assistant Administrator & Finance Director, reported that sales tax collections were up for the month of October compared to last year.
  12. Rick Piepho, County Clerk & Election Officer, reported that about 1,200 registrants have voted early in-person since last Tuesday, about twice as many as 4 years ago.
  13. Gina Bell, Planning & Zoning Director, presented copies of a Statement of Guidance to Accompany Registered Agritourism Operator Registration prepared by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. She reported that she is the current Chair of the Kansas Planning & Zoning Officials Association and that their organization opposes the policy and proposes limits to what types of operations should qualify for the benefits of being designated as agritourism.

#### **CITIZENS FORUM:**

Calvin Megli, USD 373 bus driver, stated that additional rock or road material needs to be added on the rural bus routes in Darlington Township especially on SW 48<sup>th</sup> St. west of Kansas Ave. Jim Meier, Road & Bridge Superintendent, reported that he was contacted by the USD 373 transportation director about the issue, he directed them to contact Darlington Township officials because it is a road that is maintained by the township. Darlington Township officers are not responding to requests or correcting the situation. John stated that the commission could possibly make the repairs and charge the township, but the commissioners prefer giving the township a little more time to resolve the issue and suggested that the School District continue addressing their concerns to the township officers.

Warrant checks in the amount of \$44,531.94 were approved upon a motion by Commissioner Hague, seconded by Commissioner Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Lynnette Redington, presented the 2016 Kansas Kids Count report measuring how kids are doing across multiple indicators of health, education and economic success. The report showed that the figures for Harvey County mostly follow the state averages and rates. The notable improvements in

Harvey County include a decrease in the number of low birth weight babies and an increase in the number of pregnant women receiving pre-natal care. The report shows the continuation of the increasing trend of the number children under 18 living in poverty in Harvey County and the State of Kansas. She stated that another positive improvement in Harvey County is the graduation rate of 90.93%.

Craig Clough, Appraiser, reported that AZP Realty, LLC has agreed to stipulated values for the Halstead Hospital properties. AZP filed a payment under protest when they paid their delinquent taxes earlier this year. Their appeal was before the State of Kansas Board of Tax Appeals, Small Claims Division. Craig stated that he visited the facilities and noted that the conditions of the buildings have deteriorated considerably since his last visit a number of years ago. He reduced the 2015 valuation on two of the properties from \$1,623,227 total to \$750,000 total due to the current conditions of the buildings and AZP agreed to the adjusted values. Craig stated that this agreement or decision is final and there are no other options for them to appeal the valuations for any prior years on the properties. He stated that the new stipulated values will also be used for the 2016 taxes.

Anthony Swartzendruber, presented the proposed contract with Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC) for replacing the current tax, finance, payroll and property record software system. He presented information about the current system status and the benefits of the proposed system. He stated that the current software has been in use since 2007 and the vendor for that software has no plans to upgrade or update it in the future. The CIC software is an all-inclusive system that is much more robust and efficient and includes software packages that do not exist in the current system. The total cost of the CIC system is \$289,837.00 which includes software, installation/training and data conversion and also includes the first year cost for enhancements and support. The CIC proposal also includes off-site backup of the system each night. Anthony reported that the software selection process began in 2012 with demonstrations from 3 different companies and that the purchase of a new software system has been in the CIP budget but has been deferred each year until it was adopted in the 2017 budget. Earlier this year software demonstrations and discussions were held with potential vendors and a team of department heads and elected officials that will be affected by the change. The team agreed that the CIC software system is the best choice to meet the needs of the county and recommends proceed with the purchase, installation and implementation of the CIC software. Commissioner Krehbiel made a motion to waive the purchasing policy and proceed with the contract with CIC for a total cost of \$289,837.00 and authorize administration to sign the documents. Commissioner Hague seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

At 11:20 a.m. Commissioner Hague made a motion to go into executive session for a period of 15 minutes to discuss confidential matters with legal counsel. Commissioner Westfall seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Also present for the session were John Waltner, Anthony Swartzendruber and Counselor Greg Nye. Executive session ended at 11:35 a.m. with no action being taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

BOARD OF HARVEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



*George A. "Chip" Westfall*  
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George A. "Chip" Westfall, Chairperson

*Randy Hague*  
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Randy Hague, Member

*Ron Krehbiel*  
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Ron Krehbiel, Member

ATTEST:

*Cauna Reimer, Deputy Clerk*  
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Rick Piepho, County Clerk